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Neurons at your fingertips

New app to teach neurons coming to a U of A classroom near you

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Plea for polar bears

Researchers urge governments to plan for worst-case climate change scenario

\$14M investment from CIHR shows quality

Michael Brown

University of Alberta researchers have won more than \$14 million in the latest round of investment funding from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

CIHR has awarded 27 U of A research projects belonging to 24 health researchers \$14.25 million over the next five years as part of its September 2012 Operating Grants competition.

"With this investment, our researchers can continue to help improve the health and lives of Canadians through vital multidisciplinary research in medical and rehabilitation sciences, health services and patient care," said Lorne Babiuk, U of A vice president (research). "Their results illustrate both the quality and importance of the research being conducted at the U of A."

Three researchers—cardiologist Evangelos Michelakis, kidney specialist Sara Davison and diabetes researcher Dean Eurich—each received funding for two research projects.

Eurich, a researcher with the School of Public Health, received \$380,000 over three years for two of his projects, which are designed to formally evaluate the various long-term effects of a number of new drugs designed to manage blood-sugar levels in people with diabetes.

He says because of the complex nature of the disease, co-operation across all levels of government, industry and health-care professionals, and among the many diabetes researchers at the U of A, is critical to improving the health of these patients.

"The interdisciplinary research and strong partnerships that the university has formed provides a solid foundation for this research not only to be conducted, but conducted successfully," he said. ■



Dean Eurich

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Isn't she grand?



Piano student Leslie Chen took to the Convocation Hall stage Feb. 4 as part of the Monday Music at Noon concert series.

John Urban

Two 3M national teaching awards for U of A

Michael Brown & Michael Davies-Venn

The University of Alberta added to its Canada-leading number of 3M Teaching Fellows with the announcement that Kim Fordham Misfeldt and Heather Zwicker have been added to the list, which now stands at 40.

Zwicker, a professor in the Department of English and Film Studies and vice-dean in the Faculty of Arts, says her affection for teaching began somewhat as a self-fulfilling prophecy, as she remembers tinkering with her answers while working with her high school's career-assessment tool until it consistently began to churn out "teacher."

"I think I've always wanted to be a teacher," said Zwicker, who has been lecturing for 20 years at the U of A. "I care about teaching, so I read in the area and I love to watch



Heather Zwicker

other people teach. I think the U of A is great at opening up other teachers' classrooms, and the Faculty of Arts is amazing in terms of sharing the work people are doing."

In her own classroom, Zwicker says, the best learning happens when things are a little unsafe.

"Learning at its best is a dangerous and unsettling venture. I start where students are and help them find ways to where I want them to be. Once students learn the world



Kim Fordham Misfeldt

of ideas is exciting, the world of ideas changes reality, it changes their experience of things."

Zwicker teaches a number of cultural studies courses on the city of Edmonton, teaching students how to read Edmonton through theoretical texts, local literature, cartography, personal experience and history.

"From the classroom my students can see the North

Saskatchewan River," said Zwicker. "I can tell them how everything about this city changed the day that river was seen as a barrier that needed to be crossed, rather than a mode of traffic."

"With that, I can take the experiences they have already had and recast those experiences in a different light."

One mainstay in Zwicker's classroom is a project in which her students venture out to map a part of the city in a personal way, then send a classmate on the same journey to see what they experienced. It's a popular exercise for students to get a feel for the city—and Zwicker says she can't help but steal away bits of knowledge.

"One of the things that I have when I walk out of a class on Edmonton is a deeper sense of my own citizenship in the city because of the things they show me."

Continued on page 2



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UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
CONFERENCE SERVICES

folio

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Water scientist's quality flows through teaching, service

Killam

Richard Siemens



Chemist Xing-Fang Li mixes renowned water research with an equally impressive record of teaching and community service.

Michael Brown

With everything Xing-Fang Li does to serve the university, her students and her field, it's a wonder that she also established a renowned research program on safe drinking water.

Li, a professor in the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology since 2005 and the School of Public Health since 2001, has established a vibrant and leading-edge research program in the area of analytical chemistry and environmental toxicology, particularly related to detection of chemical contaminants and pathogens in drinking water, development of novel analytical techniques, and studies of human health effects arising from exposure to chemical contaminants.

For her research, Li became the first woman to be awarded the Canadian Society for Chemistry's W.A.E. McBryde Medal "in recognition of a significant achievement in pure or applied analytical chemistry by a young chemist."

From her scholarship flows an equally impressive record of teaching and service to the community that is the embodiment of the 2012-13 Killam Professorship she was recently awarded.

Xing-Fang knows what students need to know and this authenticity is recognized by the students."

Margaret-Ann Armour

"Dr. Li is a model citizen in our department, contributing substantially to all core academic activities," said Michael Mengel, acting chair in the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology. "She fosters collaboration with colleagues and kindly mentors junior faculty members."

Margaret-Ann Armour, associate dean (diversity) in the Faculty of Science, who first met Li when Li joined the U of A's chemistry department in 1994 as a post-doctoral fellow, wrote that Li is dedicated to creating the best experience for her students, both as a classroom teacher and as a research group supervisor.

"Xing-Fang knows what students need to know and this authenticity is recognized by the students," wrote Armour in support of Li's

Killam award. "It is clear to them that she is committed to having them learn and understand the tools and techniques that will be of value to them as they move into their own careers."

Li says this connection to her students comes from support that has been reciprocated during her time at the U of A, as well as a growing appreciation for discovery learning.

"It's difficult to internalize knowledge without hands-on experience," said Li. "I didn't have the opportunity to do discovery learning but I see the value it adds in becoming a confident researcher."

Li says the university's multidisciplinary approach to research aligns nicely with her own experience: "After all, I am a chemist in the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry."

This collaborative spirit has fostered itself beyond the university walls. Li's lab has teamed up with labs all over the world, especially at universities and institutions in her native China.

Li also generously offers her expertise and donates her time serving the profession and community beyond the university. She served as the chair of the Environment Group of the American Society for Mass Spectrometry, and currently chairs the Environment Division of the Canadian Society for Chemistry. Li has also served on several committees at the university and department level, and is an active participant in Women in Scholarship, Engineering, Science and Technology.

"WISEST gave me a platform to become a more confident speaker and communicator," said Li of the campus group Margaret-Ann Armour created to increase the percentage of women in decision-making roles in all areas of scholarship. "Across Canada, very few graduate students become professors, and for that to change we need to build confidence in young women."

Researcher signatory to MOOC manifesto

Jamie Hanlon

It could be considered a summary *Pacta conventa* of online learners—a draft bill of rights proposed by a group of 12 scholars that sets the tone on the proliferation of massive open online courses (MOOCs) to focus on the needs of online learners. And the University of Alberta was at the table in Palo Alto, Calif., for the design and development of this important document.

Mark Gierl, a professor in the Department of Educational Psychology and a Canada Research Chair in Educational Measurement, was one of the signatories. He says the group's purpose was not to set an absolute list, but to establish certain principles as new MOOCs are developed. It was important to establish a pseudo safety net for students while this form of educational technology is still very much in its infancy. And although this group began the document, he says, there is ample room for participation and revision as MOOCs continue to drive forward.

"This represents a set of points of view that establish some consensus. Therefore, it's a good stopping point as we begin to expand and include more people to talk about some of these ideas," he said.

The group largely consisted of leaders in digital education, including Udacity founder and Google fellow Sebastian Thrun. Gierl's voice brought the U of A's participation to the group through his expertise in assessment. He posited the need for broader inclusion of formative assessment in the MOOC model rather than the standard summative assessment process.

"Because of the large number of students, strong technology framework and diverse content, there are opportunities to have more of a formative assessment system in place," said Gierl. "What I wanted to emphasize in my contribution was that assessment be expanded, and somewhat dramatically, in the MOOC movement to include more focus on student feedback during instruction. I think that is possible."

3M Teaching Fellows

Continued from page 1

"It is impossible to know everything about this place, and the stuff they tell me is often new to me. It is really important to me to live in a place that is diverse. My students bring back a diversity of experience that reminds me how big this city can be."

Fordham Misfeldt, a German language and literature professor from Augustana Campus, joined the Camrose arm of the university in 1991.

No stranger to teaching awards, Fordham Misfeldt won the Augustana Distinguished Teaching Award in 2000.

"Hearing students' voices and getting them to talk is important," said Fordham Misfeldt. "Too often the teacher is the one talking all the time. My classroom is student-centred—students are speaking as much as possible with each other, talking about what they're learning. This empowers students to learn in ways that they need to learn."

Through Augustana's Human Library, she has used her experiences as a survivor of childhood sexual abuse to give voice to students and others in the community who need to tell their story. She also volunteers at women's shelters, and gives presentations to people of both sexes about sexual violence in the community.

"Students and anyone from the community can come to the Human Library and take me out as they would normally take out a book. My book is on humans and gender, healing from childhood sexual abuse. It's putting the human context to learning."

Fordham Misfeldt is also the director of the Canadian Summer School in Germany, a program that sees her immerse 60 students from across Canada in the German culture.

"Teaching language is so much more than vocabulary and grammar. It opens doors for students to new ideas, cultures, literatures and ways of thinking."

Created in 1986, the 3M Teaching Fellowships are considered Canada's highest award for excellence in undergraduate university teaching.

So far, so good at 'classic Lister'



Things have improved significantly in the six months since the university announced changes to Lister Hall and other residences.

Michael Brown

It's been six months since the university announced changes to its residences, particularly the towers known as "classic Lister." The changes were made due to health and safety concerns, but also brought Lister in line with the university's other residences. According to Sarah Wolgemuth, acting director of Residence Services, things have improved significantly so far.

"There's still a high profile on Lister, but in a lot of ways it is beginning to feel like a lot of our other residences in that we are not seeing the same types of crisis with the same frequency we had in the past," said Wolgemuth, referring to alcohol misuse cases and related incidents. "In any residence, there are always going to be cases of that, but compared with past years, we're not seeing the same types of spikes when we compare Lister with other residences."

"We are not just giving students a place to live, we are trying to set them up for both academic and personal success in the long term."

Frank Robinson

In July 2012, university administrators announced a number of current and forthcoming changes to residences, particularly Lister Hall, including changes to the structure of student-staff positions, the implementation in 2013 of classic Lister as primarily a first-year residence, and changes to the alcohol rules in all residences. The swift changes at Lister came as a result of growing concerns over student and staff safety and the intractable nature of inappropriate behaviour, which previously often went unreported.

Wolgemuth says one of the encouraging trends emerging from the changes is the increased number of residents using the university's restorative justice program, which sees disputes resolved using face-to-face mediation, rather than resorting to the more formal discipline system.

"Restorative justice means things aren't going through our discipline process," said Wolgemuth. "It also means our residents are talking to each other and we in Residence Services feel that we have our finger on the pulse more closely."

Wolgemuth says the other improvements are notable—common spaces are cleaner, extra cleaning and vandalism-related costs are down significantly, and there are fewer parties in the lounges. But she notes that one concern raised by detractors of the new changes has not come to fruition. "There was a concern that with the new alcohol rules, we would see an increase in students getting dangerously drunk in their rooms by themselves. We have had zero reported incidents of that so far."

Besides the drinking concerns, the issue of change in Lister has become a contentious one on campus, with the Students' Union executive and some current and former Lister residents perceiving a lack of consultation in the process and expressing concerns that the traditional "Lister experience" will suffer, particularly in light of the staffing change and transition to a residence primarily for first-year and transfer students. The Students' Union and the Lister Hall Students' Association have initiated litigation, requesting a judicial review, in an attempt to challenge the decisions made by the university.

"We know that not all Lister residents are pleased with the changes," said dean of students Frank Robinson, "but I've also heard directly from several students during my interaction with Lister residents in the last few weeks that they feel the environment there is much better now."

Wolgemuth says Residence Services has maintained a commitment to preserving and enhancing the positive aspects of the Lister experience, and is looking to roll out a number of new initiatives to bolster student support, including creating more student leadership positions, hiring more staff members in Lister and providing better access to a new team of social workers deployed across all residences.

As well, Residence Services is implementing a plan to pilot a residence orientation next semester, working closely with the Student Success Centre. The week-long orientation program will incorporate some form of community service learning, writing and academic integrity workshops, and general residence orientation, which will include workshops about the restorative justice program, community standards, community expectations, floor visioning and team building.

And although there is still tension between Residence Services

and the Lister Hall Students' Association, Wolgemuth says the two sides meet frequently in an effort to close the gap.

For example, conversations between the LHSA, Residence Services and the dean of students resulted in six returners per floor being allowed next year in classic Lister, which is 60 per cent of the current total. Schäffer Hall residents will all be returning students.

"We are not just giving students a place to live, we are trying to set them up for both academic and personal success in the long term," said Robinson. "We are putting programming in place to help each student reach his or her potential. This is a novel approach to valued-added student housing."

"In some cases there are fundamental differences in the end goals, but we are asking for their input so they can still be represented and are trying to incorporate that input as best as we can while still trying to meet the goals of the project," said

Lister programs and initiatives on the way

Increased student leadership opportunities in Lister

Next year the three "classic" towers in Lister will move from one resident assistant per floor to two, which equates to 62 new hires. Each floor will also have three orientation volunteers. Thus far, 203 applications have been received for the volunteer roles.

Increased specialty living areas

Current areas include alcohol-free, quiet, arts leadership, science and health science. Next year, engineering and sustainability will be added.

New framework for consultation

The Residence Advisory Committee was struck in July 2012 and began meeting recently. This is a place for university administration and representatives from all residence associations, the GSA and the SU to discuss issues affecting the entire residence system.

Community development model

Residence Services has a community development model to be

implemented in September 2013. Designed for first-year students living in residence, the new model is based on four competencies.

1. Learning and Development
2. Life Balance
3. Citizenship
4. Leadership

Alcohol Policy Review Committee

This working group was struck in October to review university alcohol policies. The committee includes GSA and SU representatives.

New residence orientation program

Residence move-in for first-year students will be one week earlier so they can attend Basecamp. Basecamp will have two days of residence orientation (floor get-to-know-you exercises, floor visioning, etc.), two days of university orientation made up of academic workshops from the Student Success Centre, and one final day of community service in Edmonton.

president of the LHSA, and we incorporated a new student code of conduct that LHSA suggested," said Robinson. "We had really good conversations about how to pull these events off in a way that preserved the tradition without the troubling aspects they were known for in the past. Then the Residence Services staff and LHSA collaborated and made sure the nature of the events did not compromise student health and safety.

"They went off very well and turned into something we could be proud of." ■

CIHR Operating Grants

Continued from page 1

Adetola Adesida Knee meniscus reconstruction using mesenchymal stem cells \$696,183 over five years	Assessment to Care Trial (IMPACT): Intervening early to improve maternal and child health \$346,231 over four years
Troy Baldwin Cellular and molecular regulation of T cell tolerance \$784,330 over five years	Peter Light Novel protective roles for ATP-sensitive potassium channels in the heart \$665,800 over five years
Sara Davison Functional and symptom trajectories in elderly chronic kidney disease patients and their association with dialysis initiation \$379,279 over four years	Richard Long Reducing the burden of tuberculosis in the foreign-born through an expanded program of post-landing Immigration Medical Surveillance: A nationwide study in Canada, 2003–2010. \$247,925 over three years
Jason Dyck The involvement of CD36 in the regulation of myocardial metabolism and function \$728,201 over five years	Katherine Magor Influenza virulence and host defence \$341,922 over four years
Dean Eurich International population-based evaluation of drug therapies used to manage Type 2 diabetes \$176,644 over three years	Todd McMullen The biological and clinical significance of platelet derived growth factor receptor in papillary thyroid cancer \$642,147 over five years
Evangelos Michelakis A functional nuclear pyruvate dehydrogenase complex is important for a mitochondria-independent generation of acetyl-CoA and histone acetylation in the nucleus \$813,784 over five years	Yves Sauvé Retinopathy in a cone-rich rodent model of spontaneous Type 2 diabetes \$553,994 over five years
Catherine Field Establishment of a role for docosahexanoic acid in the treatment of breast cancer \$395,200 over four years	Shannon Scott Upscaling data to develop knowledge translation theory for child health-care contexts \$122,491 over two years
Tom Hobman Flavivirus host cell interactions \$900,500 over five years	Maya Shmulevitz Characterizing structural changes that retarget enteric reovirus towards tumours \$563,670 over five years
Dawn Kingston Integrated Maternal Psychosocial	Marcello Tonelli Quality of cancer care in remote-dwelling Canadians \$237,868 over three years
	Marie Turner Short bowel syndrome and glucagon-like peptide-2 therapy: Actions and mechanisms studied in neonatal piglets \$548,527 over four years
	Lorne Tyrrell Studies on hepatitis C – Host pathogen interactions \$612,030 over five years
	Andrew Waskiewicz Investigations of genetic pathways underlying superior retinal colobomata, defects in closure of a novel ocular fissure \$667,921 over five years
	Jayne Yang Intensive motor training after perinatal stroke to enhance walking \$373,461 over three years
	Stephanie Yanow Integrated molecular approaches to the diagnosis and epidemiology of pregnancy-associated malaria in Latin America \$418,101 over three years



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Call for Consultation

By the Dean Selection Committee,
School of Public Health

The process for selecting a Dean of the School of Public Health has begun, and in accordance with GFC regulations, a Selection Committee has been established.

At this point, the Selection Committee asks for your opinion on the leadership needs of the School in the years ahead and any other key issues. You are urged to contact members of the Committee, or write to me as Committee Chair, to express your views on the priorities of the School, its current issues and future direction. All feedback may be shared with the Selection Committee. In order to facilitate the Committee's work, please submit your comments by **Monday, February 25, 2013**.

In addition, individuals who wish to stand as a candidate are invited to apply. Individuals may also nominate others who they feel would be suitable candidates.

The selection of a Dean of the School of Public Health is vital to the academic success of the University of Alberta. I therefore ask you to take the time, even at this busy point in the academic year, to give some thought to the future of the School. Your views are important to us. Thank you for your assistance.

Please forward your comments to the address/e-mail below. You may also share your views with any member of the Committee (contact information at right).

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Nominating Committee looking for a few good members

Michael Brown

The words "I WANT YOU for the GFC standing committees" popping out on a poster featuring University of Alberta founder and first president Henry Marshall Tory in place of Uncle Sam in a U.S. Army enlistment-style ad might be past its prime as an idea for recruitment. Nonetheless, the message remains: The university needs you.

The university's Nominating Committee, which is responsible for replenishing General Faculties Council standing committees and other bodies requiring representation from GFC or the academic community, has begun its search for new members.

The Nominating Committee is charged with ensuring the best possible match between prospective members and the committees to which they are nominated.

This year, upwards of 10 committees are calling for a mix of student, faculty and staff members to fill more than 80 vacancies. Most of the terms for faculty and staff are three years; student openings are one year, with a committee option for a second year. Graduate students have their own nomination process so they arrive with a full slate of representatives to the various committees.

"If you want to influence the direction of the university, this is what you need to do," said Ed Blackburn, chair of the Nominating Committee. "This is a way to get involved in the governance process and influence change."

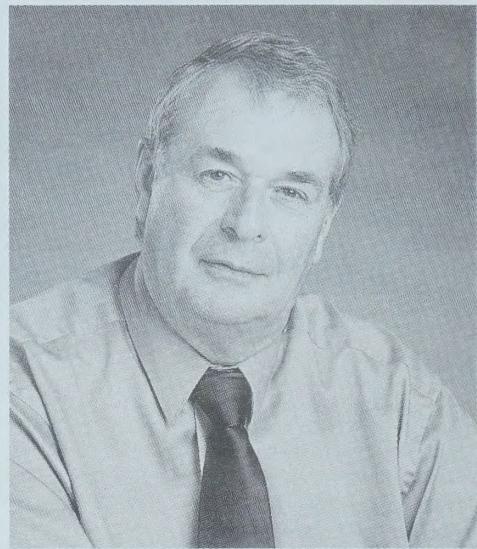
Governance is the processes and practices through which an entity organizes to achieve its mandate. In the case of the U of A, the governance process is organized using a collegial model, which relies heavily on the participation of colleagues to establish and realize a shared purpose and provides an opportunity for citizens to participate in decision-making.

"It's our collegial approach to administration that allows for the whole university community's involvement," said Blackburn. "The university feels there is value added when more parties can look at an issue."

It's also important that a diverse group of people have their voices heard. To this end, it's the Nominating Committee's responsibility to ensure the broadest possible base of representation given the available pool of nominees.

"We go through current membership and look at the profiles of students who wish to join the committee

University 101



Ed Blackburn, chair of the U of A's Nominating Committee

to make sure we have gender balance and balance across the faculties," said Blackburn. "Diversity is especially important when it comes to a group like the appeals committees. Bigger faculties, such as arts, have more students who will appeal, and therefore you don't want an appeals committee whose majority is made up of arts faculty members and students. In this case, you need that spectrum of members to ensure fairness."

In the end, Blackburn says, the collegial nature of university governance is simply about the people working in the best interest of the university.

"What I get out of it is the knowledge that I am helping the institution to run," he said. "People can make the difference. They can affect the way programs change."

March 4 is the deadline for student applications to be received by University Governance; the faculty and staff deadline is March 28.

For a list of committees recruiting members or for more information, go to governance.ualberta.ca or contact Ann Hodgson. ■

Inclusive strengths engender new department name

Lana Cuthbertson

It isn't all about women anymore.

As of Jan. 1, Women's and Gender Studies officially became a department in the Faculty of Arts—a move its chair says makes sense for what was previously the Women's Studies program.

"We operated like a department—we had our own budget, we had our own teaching plan, we had a chair who's appointed through university procedures," said Lise Gotell, chair of the new department.

Gotell said Women's Studies started as a program because of its interdisciplinary nature.

"The program depended on cross-listed courses and the goodwill of feminist faculty members in departments."

Most other universities in Canada have women's studies centres, institutes or departments, so the U of A's unit was a bit of an anomaly in remaining a program, she said.

The move to becoming a department isn't so much an



Lise Gotell

altogether; others argued that the name should have stayed as it was.

But the discipline as a whole, as well as the U of A program, began to move beyond just women's studies and toward a broader analysis of gender and sexuality studies. For example, the U of A's program offers a course on masculinity studies, and the department has research strength in gender and sexuality studies. So the final name is a compromise that continues to include "women," but also incorporates "gender," Gotell said.

As for the department's next steps, Gotell said she's working on offering the Prairies' first MA degree in women's and gender studies. The new graduate program will also be the first in Canada to include a mandatory community service-learning component.

The department also hosts an undergraduate student research conference, which is happening March 8. It includes students from various disciplines across the university to present on research and topics related to women's and gender studies. ■

How many nouns are in that garlic?

Michael Davies-Venn

Forty years ago, Jeffry Pelletier, now a University of Alberta philosophy and linguistics researcher, challenged a fundamental tenet of English grammar in his doctoral dissertation. In trying to show that natural languages—such as the one you're reading—do not directly reflect reality, Pelletier declared that the difference between mass and count nouns was arbitrary and, as such, not very useful in talking about our world.

I claimed that every noun could be used as either mass or count. And the moral I drew from this was that existing differences might be important but they don't say anything about the world."

Jeffry Pelletier

At the time he made the claim, there was so little literature on the subject that he covered all of it in his dissertation. The anthology he later edited on the subject remained the only such work in the field for many years, he says. But now, what was once an esoteric subject is becoming more common.

"It's an obscure technical topic; during the '70s some people wrote about it and then stopped. But the topic kept bubbling up here and there. And suddenly, about five years

"So I picked on a few areas of natural languages to show how to represent them in formal logic. I said in the theses that the mass-count distinction is totally arbitrary. I claimed that every noun could be used as either mass or count. And the moral I drew from this was that existing differences might be important but they don't say anything about the world."

He says some people agree that many words and phrases can be considered both mass and count nouns. To complicate things further, he says certain nouns that describe the same kind of reality are treated differently. "Take a word such as onion, which is a count

ago, there were all of these people in Europe interested in this topic. So somehow it got interesting once again after all these years," says Pelletier.

An indication of that shift is the €250,000 award Pelletier received from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. A German scholar, Tibor Kiss, nominated Pelletier for the Anneliese Maier award, which recognizes lifetime contributions to research in a field and funds research projects that advance the internationalization of disciplines in Germany.

Pelletier's grammatical claim is part of a much larger issue he has been preoccupied with for decades—making language more logical.

"For 40 years, I've been interested in a question on natural languages—the view that natural languages are a bit imprecise, unclear and fuzzy, and that somehow you could sharpen them by representing them in a system of logic," he says.

"I claimed that every noun could be used as either mass or count. And the moral I drew from this was that existing differences might be important but they don't say anything about the world."

He says some people agree that many words and phrases can be considered both mass and count nouns. To complicate things further, he says certain nouns that describe the same kind of reality are treated differently. "Take a word such as onion, which is a count



You say onions, I say garlic: Jeffry Pelletier shows how illogical nouns can be when it comes to describing the world.

term—one onion, five onions and so on. But garlic is a mass term. In reality, there's hardly any difference in the world between the two, yet you can count onions but can't count garlic."

Although some scholars have said Pelletier's ideas apply only to the English language, he points out that seeming differences between languages help substantiate his claim. He explains that in German the word bridge is feminine but in Spanish it's masculine. "But no one thinks of bridges like that, and so I said mass and count noun distinctions were like that distinction—they don't mean anything about reality," he says.

Thanks to the award, Pelletier will team up with Kiss to compare usage of count and

mass nouns between German and English. Kiss and his team at Ruhr University Bochum have spent five years tracking how German-language newspapers use the terms. And they will bring that expertise to the U of A, to train students who will work with Pelletier on the five-year interdisciplinary project.

"Kiss was interested in how common it is for mass nouns to be used as count nouns, for all of the nouns in German. We will investigate how count and mass nouns work in English and do comparisons with German," he says. "This is something that could be useful for translating languages, and perhaps a way to predict more accurately when one language is going to use count and another mass for the same noun."

Will Richard III's remains restore his image?

Michael Davies-Venn

The recently discovered body of Richard III puts all the pieces in place for an important historical investigation that will help quell the disquiet surrounding Shakespeare's account of the ill-fated English king, says a University of Alberta researcher.

Jonathan Hart, a professor of English and film studies, says the Bard's *Richard III*—an ignoble portrait written more than a hundred years after Richard was killed in 1485 at the Battle of Bosworth—has remained the most influential portrait of Richard for centuries.

Now, with help from a Canadian descendant's DNA, a body discovered under a parking lot in Leicester, England, has been confirmed as that of Richard III. Hart, who is also a historian, says Richard's body—long thought to have been desecrated—could help to give the world a counterpoint to Shakespeare's play, which famously opens with "Now is the winter of our discontent."

"That's a powerful line and that's how he begins the play in which he helped create Richard III as a hunchback and tyrant," says Hart. "Now we have two bodies—the actual forensic body that this Canadian carpenter, who is a descendant from Richard III's family through Richard's sister, Anne of York, has allowed us to verify as Richard's; and the mythical dramatic body Shakespeare created," Hart says. "In a crime scene, you need a body. And we now have one, in the court of public opinion."

Shakespeare left us a picture of Richard as a Machiavellian politician, a tyrant and a monster who killed his nephews, says Hart. And although an investigation may vindicate Richard and help to refute or qualify the Bard's portrayal, Shakespeare's way with words will leave that portrayal largely unscathed.



Jonathan Hart

Now we have two bodies: the actual forensic body, and the mythical dramatic body Shakespeare created."

Jonathan Hart

was not dramatic, he turned it into something dramatic. He was a dramatist and a poet."

Hart says that's what Shakespeare did with writings by Thomas More on Richard. "More wrote an account of Richard, and Shakespeare, being a working playwright, used More's portrait of Richard as one of his principal sources," Hart says.

"I wouldn't call Shakespeare a propagandist, but his source in this case might be considered official Tudor history, and might have elements of propaganda in it. And the only sources that we have in Renaissance literature tend to put Richard in a very bad light."

But now, Hart says, as evidence is assembled from the discovery, it will allow a new debate about the past.

"With this body, the new mystery begins. For several centuries, what we had was Shakespeare's portrait. Historians and others might come forward now and say this is the way he appears in Shakespeare, but we don't necessarily think this is the case."

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2013-2014 Killam Annual Professorships

Applications are invited for the 2013-2014 Killam Annual Professorships. All regular, continuing, full-time academic faculty members who are not on leave during 2013-2014 are eligible to apply. Deans, department chairs and other senior university administrators with personnel responsibilities shall not normally be eligible for Killam Annual Professorships. Associate deans and associate department chairs are eligible providing they do not have personnel responsibilities. Up to eight Killam Annual Professors will be selected by a subcommittee of the Killam Trusts Committee; no more than two Professorships shall be awarded to staff members in any one faculty in any given year. Each Killam Annual Professor shall be presented with a \$3,500 cash award and a commemorative plaque. The duties of Killam Annual Professors shall not be changed from those that they regularly perform as academic staff members.

The primary criterion for selection shall be a record of outstanding scholarship and teaching over three or more years as evidenced by any or all of: research publications, creative activities, presented papers, supervision of graduate students, and courses taught. The secondary criterion shall be a record of substantial contributions to the community outside the university, above and beyond what is usually expected of a professor, as evidenced by community involvement normally directly linked to the applicant's university responsibilities and activities. However, other forms of community involvement will be considered, especially, but not exclusively, where the applicant's discipline does not readily lend itself to making community contributions, and also where the university's reputation is clearly enhanced by the applicant's contributions.

Awards are tenable for 12 months commencing July 1, 2013. The completed application must be received at the Office of the Vice-President (Research), 2-51 South Academic Building, by 4:30 p.m., Friday, February 15, 2013. Award recipients will be announced by early May, and they will be formally recognized at the Killam Trusts Luncheon and Awards Celebration in the fall of 2013.

Applications and further details are available at www.research.ualberta.ca, under Vice-President (Research), Internal Honours & Prizes section.

Please contact Annette Kujda, Administrative Officer, Office of the Vice-President (Research) at extension 2-8342 or annette.kujda@ualberta.ca if you have any questions.

Textile artists create stories of hope stitch by stitch

Bev Betkowski

In Nozeti Makhubulo's modest, one-page biography, pinned to a wall in the University of Alberta Rutherford Library South, the divorced mother of six daughters declares, "I haven't studied art, but I am an artist by birth. I am sending messages through the world by changing words into pictures."

The South African woman, who fled an arranged marriage after years of abuse, is now a designer for the Keiskamma Trust, creating beautiful, functional art, and along the way, crafting a better life for herself and her family. With no formal training, Makhubulo is nonetheless a vibrant artist.

Some of her creations—folksy renderings of cows that adorn cloth shopping bags and other textiles—are on display as part of the U of A's International Week celebration. *Stitch by Stitch: Art as a Path to Hope in Rural South Africa* is a textiles exhibit featuring the colourful handmade work of men and women like Makhubulo who live in the Eastern Cape of South Africa. The exhibit, which opened Jan. 10 and closes Feb. 11 in the library with a public sale of all the items from 1 to 4 p.m., embodies the strength and talent of the



Marilyn Scott sports a blue flower handcrafted by one of the South African artists whose creations are on display in Rutherford Library South until Feb. 11.

homegrown artists, who rely on the proceeds of their work to make a living.

"They are an amazing group of people," said Marilyn Scott, curator for the exhibit and a board member of Keiskamma Canada Foundation, which is sponsoring the exhibit. Featuring 80 pieces, the exhibit is a colourful assortment of bright, cheerful tapestries, scarves, T-shirts, bags, pins, cushion covers,

aprons, bangles, necklaces, tiny dolls, beaded ornaments and even laptop covers, all hand-crafted of silk, wool, mohair or hessian, a jute-like fabric. The pieces are adorned with what the artists draw from their everyday surroundings, including livestock, fish and botanicals.

Each whimsical piece is infused with threads of joy and humour, reflecting the durability and optimism of people who live

in an area devastated by HIV and by poverty, Scott said.

"There is desperation and tragedy, but it is overshadowed by this great joy and celebration of life. Their resilience to me is amazing and a good deal of it has come from the Keiskamma Trust. Stitch by stitch it brings their world together, tells their stories and stitches their world into ours."

Keiskamma also invited the public, as part of International Week activities, to a tapestry-making session Jan. 30 at the TELUS Centre.

Following a short presentation about Keiskamma Canada, people were invited to try their hand at adding a few stitches to a communal tapestry inspired by the work of the South African artists. "We wanted to tell our story as an organization, and tapestry is a great way of storytelling," said Lynn Surankayo, a Keiskamma Canada board member who also works in the Faculty of Arts as a community service-learning partnership co-ordinator.

An exhibit of Keiskamma tapestries, including the communal work, will also be on display at the McMullen Gallery in the University Hospital from March 29 to June 3, 2013. ■

TLEF

Tablet app gets students' neurons firing in the classroom

Michael Brown

Since the first moment tablets entered the marketplace, the push to find novel and interesting uses for these portable devices has been exponential.

Among those who saw the tablet's potential as a classroom learning tool was Declan Ali, a professor in the Department of Biological Sciences.

"When tablets first started to come out, I wanted to compose a program or an app that mimicked electrophysiological activity, the same way that we teach about it in class," said Ali, who teaches a third-year neuroscience course, Zoology 342. "I wanted to bring something into the classroom that was more dynamic and could engage students a bit more, get them really excited and interested."

I wanted to bring something into the classroom that was more dynamic and could engage students a bit more."

Declan Ali



Declan Ali is shepherding in a new app that will place neuron learning at students' fingertips.

Ali says he began researching the logistics of a web-based neuroscience simulation program that would allow students to visualize electrical communication within the nervous system as information flows from cell to cell.

"Many of the aspects of electrophysiology that we teach are difficult to grasp—you have to see them a few different times in different ways," said Ali. "What was important to me was to get the real difficult-to-grasp ideas in a way that students could see

it with images and with cartoon-like functions, and say, 'That's something I can understand.'

Ali collaborated with Greg Funk in physiology; Kelvin Jones, a Lou Gehrig's disease researcher in the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation; and the university's Academic Information Communication Technologies on the design of the neuron app project, which is being paid for by a \$84,177 University of Alberta Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund grant.

Based on the research-based modelling programs Neuron and Neurons in Action, the app, which should be ready for launch in early September, will give students the opportunity to change cellular, membrane and channel properties to test how they affect information flow and see how specific changes contribute to central nervous system diseases like multiple sclerosis.

Ali sees the program's uses going far beyond his classroom to lectures; labs in seminars in faculties as diverse as science, medicine and dentistry, and physical education

and recreation; and then into high-school classrooms and perhaps into hospital rooms to give patients a better diagnosis.

"We couldn't have done it without the TLEF funding," said Ali. "Those types of grants give researchers and scientists who have a strong desire to really teach well and engage students the opportunity to try something new that maybe we couldn't do otherwise."

"When you have the resources, that's when innovation can take place." ■



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On a mission



Studio Theatre's newest offering, *The Missionary Position*, will run until Feb. 16 at the Timms Centre for the Arts. The story is about missionaries who, while rescuing children they believe are orphans, are incarcerated and forced to confront who they are.



Zebrafish eyed as answer to restoring vision

Brian Murphy

Zebrafish, a staple of genetic research, may hold the answer to repairing damaged retinas and returning eyesight to people.

University of Alberta researchers discovered that a zebrafish's stem cells can selectively regenerate damaged photoreceptor cells.

Lead U of A researcher Ted Allison credits the success to what he says is the university's "impressive cluster of vision science researchers and outstanding environment for cross-disciplinary work spanning discovery science to clinical work."

Allison says geneticists have known for some time that stem cells in zebrafish—unlike those in humans—can replace damaged cells involved in many components of eyesight. Rods and cones are the most important photoreceptors. In humans, rods provide us with night vision and cones give us a full-colour look at the world during the day.

What was not known, says Allison, was whether the zebrafish stem cells could be instructed to replace only the cones in its retina.

This could have important implications for human eyesight.

"This is the first time in an animal research model that stem cells have only repaired damaged cones," said Allison. "For people with damaged eyesight, repairing the cones

“For people with damaged eyesight, repairing the cones is most important because it would restore daytime colour vision.”

Ted Allison



Ted Allison

is most important because it would restore daytime colour vision."

The researchers say that to date, almost all success in regenerating photoreceptor cells has been limited to rods, not cones. Most of these previous experiments were conducted on nocturnal rodents, animals that require good night vision and consequently have far more rods than cones.

"This shows us that when cones die in a cone-rich retina, it is primarily cones that regenerate," said Allison.

"This suggests the tissue environment provides cues to instruct stem cells how to react."

The researchers say this shows some hope for stem-cell therapy that could regenerate damaged cones in people, especially in the cone-rich regions of the retina that provide daytime colour vision.

"The next step for our team is to identify the particular zebrafish gene that activates repair of damaged cones," said Allison.

The research was funded by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada. The paper was published Jan. 30 in the journal *PLOS ONE*. ■

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Tara Fenwick

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Prepare now to save polar bears, say researchers

Brian Murphy

A University of Alberta polar bear researcher and 11 international co-authors are urging governments to start planning for rapid Arctic ecosystem change to deal with a climate change catastrophe for the animals.

U of A professor Andrew Derocher co-wrote a policy perspective urging governments with polar bear populations to accept that just one unexpected jump in Arctic warming trends could send some polar bear populations into a precipitous decline.

"It's a fact that early sea ice breakup, late ice freeze-up and the overall reduction in ice pack are taking their toll," said Derocher. "We want governments to be ready with conservation and management plans for polar bears when a worst-case climate change scenario happens."

The effects of climate change on polar bears are clear from both observational and modelling studies in many areas where the bears are found. Earlier studies by Derocher and his colleagues show that one very bad ice year could leave hundreds of Hudson Bay polar bears stranded on land for an extended period. "Such an event could erase half of a population in a single year," Derocher noted.

"The management options for northern communities like Churchill would range from doing nothing, to feeding the bears, moving them somewhere else or euthanizing them," said Derocher.

The concerned researchers say they're not telling governments what to do. But they want policy makers and wildlife managers to start planning for both the predicted escalation of Arctic warming and for an off-the-charts, worst-case scenario.

"You're going to make better decisions if you have time to think about it in advance; it's a no-brainer," said Derocher, adding that "consultation with northern residents takes time and the worst time to ask for input is during a crisis."

The researchers say the options for polar bear management include what Derocher calls a "wild bear park

model"—feeding and releasing the bears when freeze-ups allow the animals to get to their hunting grounds. But the paper reports that the cost could run into the millions and could have ramifications for the animals' long-term behaviour.

The authors of the paper say governments should be aware of the fallout from climate change, and human safety in the North is going to be an increasing challenge.

"Around the world, polar bears are an iconic symbol, so any tragedy would produce massive attention," said Derocher.



A worst-case climate change scenario could spell disaster for polar bears.

"If the warming trend around Hudson Bay took an upward spike, the population of 900 to 1,000 bears in western Hudson Bay would be on the line, so there has to be a plan."

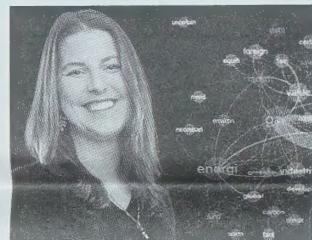
The paper, titled "Rapid ecosystem change and polar bear conservation," was published online as an accepted article Jan. 25 in the journal *Conservation Letters*. ■

Survey reveals fault lines in views on climate change

Jamie Hanlon

Climate change is a hotly debated issue among many scientists, but a new study published by a University of Alberta researcher notes that geoscientists and engineers also become embroiled in the issue—and for some, it can get surprisingly personal.

Lianne Lefsrud, a PhD student in the Alberta School of Business, surveyed the membership of the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Alberta regarding their beliefs on climate change and its causes, and



Lianne Lefsrud

on where responsibility for change rests. The responses reflected the rational, logical debates that would be expected of their professions. But when it came to being able to expand

on their beliefs, the tone changed quite unexpectedly.

"Our findings show over 99 per cent agree that the climate is changing. They're pretty much split on the cause," she said. "But what was most interesting was the emotion, the metaphor, the very colourful language that they used in the open-ended responses."

Lefsrud says despite the disagreement on what causes climate change and the intensity of the discord, there were recurrent themes that offered the potential of finding common areas of interest that would allow for collaboration.

Lefsrud noted that many of the personal responses positioned the issue in terms of "us versus them." She said the respondents seemed to claim a certain superiority of knowledge over the general populace on the subject, while at the same time denigrating the experiences, knowledge or ethics of colleagues in their profession who had a different opinion.

"It's very much a construction of their own expertise and legitimization tactics they use and the delegitimization of others, of their 'enemies,'" she said.

The findings, published in the journal *Organization Studies*, identify five distinct beliefs on climate change, ranging from evolutionary to economic. There were also some interesting distinctions in who believed what about the subject. Younger, female engineers employed in government seemed to support the Kyoto Protocol, whereas their older, male counterparts—largely employed by oil and gas companies—tended to take a fatalistic response to climate change, labelling nature as the culprit. However, one group gave cause for hope that consensus could

be achieved, even among such diametrically opposed opinions.

"They were the smallest yet most active group," said Lefsrud. "They were quite senior and quite knowledgeable, so they saw how they could work the angles to make a 'discourse coalition.'"

Lefsrud noted that while the survey data could lead some to believe that the level of disagreement would prohibit any sort of decision-making or conscious action, she says there were many common points of interest that could be pulled together to establish unity and effect change.

"It was interesting to see how a coalition could be built and work together to kind of patch up these factions and say, 'OK, so what. Let's set this aside. We all agree it's a risk. We all agree to do something, so let's do something,'" said Lefsrud. "That was quite a hopeful message to say that we can do something here."

"Now that we can understand some of these different positions, we can do something in terms of bridging these positions." ■

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Study pinpoints success factors for primary care networks



Researcher Trish Reay of the Alberta School of Business

Jamie Hanlon

A newly released study on early adoptees of the provincial Primary Care Initiative proposes that the success of primary care networks is linked with three elements: strong leadership; a redefined, inclusive workspace; and allowance for creative discord.

In a paper published in *Health Care Management Review*, lead researcher Trish Reay of the Alberta School of Business and colleagues from the U of A, University of Calgary and Florida Atlantic University state that, of eight centres that agreed to the government proposal to design and deliver comprehensive family health care, five were able to thrive by engaging in and adopting changes in standard practice.

Reay says this reorganization of patient care into more comprehensive services reaps positive benefits for all parties—the patients, the doctors and other health-care practitioners involved in the networks—and for the health-care system itself. And with more than 2,500 Alberta doctors now signed on to the initiative, it is a system that holds promise for improved health-care delivery in the province.

"What the doctors I've spoken to find attractive about the PCN model is that, by bringing other professionals and creating a team, it allows the physicians to practice

medicine in the way they really want to," she said.

Reay noted that health-care managers who were hired to organize the PCNs were an important catalyst of change. They facilitated group decision-making regarding the reorganization and reallocation of work, such as lifestyle counselling for diabetes patients, from doctors to other health-care professionals such as nurses. The physicians were able to focus on the aspects of the practice for which they were solely qualified.

Under this framework, the care and treatment of patients truly became a team approach.

"We found that the managers had to find ways to get the physicians and those around them to actually try these new, multidisciplinary mechanisms," said Reay. "These managers had a positive attitude and they set up a number of different ways that almost made the physicians keep trying it for awhile. As they kept trying it, they made the doctors talk about it and really think through how it was going."

Reay says that reorganizing and reallocating physical space was critical in developing teamwork and facilitating communication. But the ability to communicate—and to disagree—also seemed to mark the successful PCNs. Those that had not made a successful transition were pleasant, but she said they constantly claimed to be "almost ready" to make the change, a sign that perhaps hid underlying

communications issues. Those leaders that had managed the difficult conversations and found the ability to compromise and move forward were models of success.

"Managers encouraged people to disagree so that they could have a more full discussion about what was going on and really think through how to manage it," she said.

Reay says the doctors she spoke with are sold on the PCN model because it allows greater freedom to practise medicine the way they want, provides for maintained contact with their patients and offers great work-life balance. And as economic issues mean that health care has to do more with less, she says this model permits the PCNs to focus on the health-care needs of their patient community—areas such as mental health, diabetes or cardiac care—and to work preventatively by providing counselling and information to people at risk for chronic diseases.

"Patients actually like this model. They like the fact that they still see their physicians, but they don't have to rely on those quick office visits in order to ask questions, get more information and learn about whatever it may be that they have," added Reay. "In a business world, we'd say that this model is more user-friendly."

"The client has a better and, I think, more effective experience in terms of learning to manage their own life and be healthy."

Are You a Winner?

Congratulations to Susanne Barton, who won a Butterdome butter dish as part of Folio's Jan. 25 "Are You a Winner?" contest. Barton identified the location of last issue's photo as the Students' Union Building Stage. Up for grabs this week is a copy of the award-winning *The Grads Are Playing Tonight!* by M. Ann Hall, U of A professor emeritus in the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation. To win it, simply identify where the object pictured is located and email your answer to folio@ualberta.ca by noon on Monday, Feb. 18, and you will be entered into the draw.



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Call for Consultation

By the Dean Selection Committee, Alberta School of Business

The process for selecting a Dean of the Alberta School of Business has begun, and in accordance with GFC regulations, a Selection Committee has been established.

At this point, the Selection Committee asks for your opinion on the leadership needs of the School in the years ahead and any other key issues. You are urged to contact members of the Committee, or write to me as Committee Chair, to express your views on the priorities of the School, its current issues and future direction. All feedback may be shared with the Selection Committee. In order to facilitate the Committee's work, please submit your comments by **Monday, February 11, 2013**.

In addition, individuals who wish to stand as a candidate are invited to apply. Individuals may also nominate others who they feel would be suitable candidates.

The selection of a Dean of the Alberta School of Business is vital to the academic success of the University of Alberta. I therefore ask you to take the time, even at this busy point in the academic year, to give some thought to the future of the School. Your views are important to us. Thank you for your assistance.

Please forward your comments to the address/e-mail below. You may also share your views with any member of the Committee (contact information at right).

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news [shorts]

folio presents a sample of some of the stories that recently appeared on the ualberta.ca news page. To read more, go to www.news.ualberta.ca.

Sticky snow leads to not so ideal racing conditions

The U of A's Great Northern Concrete Toboggan Race team and the CobraBoggan brought home the top prize in two design categories at a national competition Jan. 23 to 27.

Nearly 20 teams from across Canada competed in Vancouver. The Cobras won awards in the Best Braking Design and Best Theoretical Toboggan categories, and third place for Concrete Mix Design.

Though the team's 30-plus members were recognized for their outstanding technical displays and designs, they fell a bit short in the race.

"The snow conditions were not ideal and the snow was not very well packed. Our toboggan was designed for harder snow like we have in Alberta," said team captain Mathew Schafer. "Because the snow conditions were so bad, the run was shallow and the snow was sticky."

Schafer said the majority of teams failed to complete the two runs.

"Our sled was very well designed. However, if we had done a little more research into snow conditions and widened the skis, our toboggan wouldn't have dug into the snow," he explained. "Had we managed to finish just one race, we would have been in an ideal position vying for the top spot."

The Cobras also received the Spirit Award for embodying the spirit of the event by networking with other people.

"A lot of good friendships were built with people across Canada, and our team had the opportunity to bond quite a bit as well."

Call for nominations for teaching excellence awards

The General Faculties Committee's University Teaching Awards Committee invites nominations for the 2013 Awards for Teaching Excellence. The 2013 deadline to submit nominations is Feb. 22.

Awards include the Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching, Provost's Award for Early Achievement of Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, Rutherford Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, Teaching Unit Award and the William Hardy Alexander Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching.

Staff and students are encouraged to submit nominations to their department chair or dean, as appropriate. Nominations must go through faculties as each faculty has a limit on the number of nominations that can be submitted.

Nomination packages are to be submitted to the Academic Awards and Ceremonies Office, Office of the Registrar, B19 Administration Building.

For complete regulations, go to policiesonline.ualberta.ca and search "Awards for Teaching Excellence Policy."

Nominators requiring assistance in preparing nominations can contact Laura Connell, acting faculty awards facilitator with the Academic Awards and Ceremonies Office, at 780-492-2644 or laura.connell@ualberta.ca.

School of Business repeats high ranking

The Alberta School of Business was again recognized as one of the world's top 100 business schools by the 2013 Financial Times of London rankings released Jan. 28.

The U of A's business school ranked 33rd globally for research, 71st for its PhD program and 100th for its MBA. The Alberta MBA ranked first in Canada for value for money and second in Canada for placement success and employment three months out.

The rankings represent both private and publicly funded universities. Among publicly funded universities, the Alberta School of Business ranked ninth for research, 35th for PhD and 56th for MBA.

"This is a tremendous accomplishment for our school and speaks to the importance of excellence in both research and teaching, and the quality, value and value-added offered by both the Alberta MBA and PhD. This is a place of high energy, an entrepreneurial and collegial environment, and an amazing and supportive global alumni network," said interim dean Joseph Doucet. "Our faculty, students and alumni are truly leaders from Alberta for the world."

Deadline for Alumni Recognition Awards Feb. 25

The Feb. 25 deadline for nominations for the 2013 Alumni Recognition Awards is fast approaching.

At a gala ceremony to be held Sept. 25, the university will honour alumni for their accomplishments in a variety of ways.

The Distinguished Alumni Award recognizes the accomplishments of living U of A alumni who have earned prominence as a result of their outstanding professional achievements and service to society.

The Alumni Honour Award recognizes the significant contributions alumni have made to their professions, communities or society at large over a number of years.

The Alumni Award of Excellence recognizes specific recent accomplishments of graduates over the past year, such as major awards, national or international honours, major championships or appointments to high office.

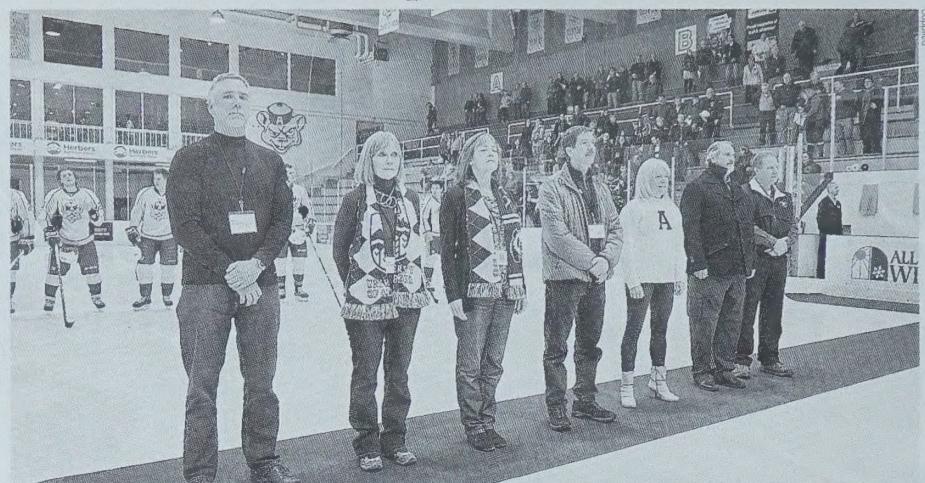
The Alumni Horizon Award recognizes the outstanding achievements of alumni early in their career.

The Alumni Centenary Award for Volunteer Service to the University recognizes alumni who have made an uncommon gift of time, self and energy to the U of A.

The Alumni Sports Wall of Fame recognizes athletes and builders who have significantly contributed to U of A sports programs.

For nomination forms, go to alumni.ualberta.ca/AlumniAwards.

Drop the Puck



(From left) Kerr Mummery, dean of the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation; Anita Molzahn, dean of the Faculty of Nursing; Lesley Cormack, dean of the Faculty of Arts; James Kehrer, dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences; Debra Pozega Osburn, vice-president (university relations); Don Hickey, vice-president (facilities and operations); and Carl Amrhein (currently on sabbatical from his post as provost and vice-president, academic), were on hand Jan. 26 to support the Golden Bears as part of the annual Deans' Sports Night.

Explosive breakthrough in research on molecular recognition

Nicole Basaraba

Research done in the Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering has revealed a new way to better detect telltale molecules associated with explosive mixtures.

A team of researchers—including post-doctoral fellows Seonghwan Kim, Dongkyu Lee and Xuchen Liu, research associate Charles Van Neste, visiting professor Sangmin Jeon from the Pohang University of Science and Technology in South Korea, and chemical and materials engineering professor Thomas Thundat—has found a method of using receptor-free nanomechanical infrared spectroscopy to increase recognition of chemical molecules in explosive mixtures.

Detecting trace amounts of explosives with mixed molecules presents a formidable challenge for sensors with chemical coatings. The nanomechanical infrared spectroscopy used by the U of A research team provides higher selectivity in molecular detection by measuring



Thomas Thundat

the photothermal effect of the absorbed molecules.

Thundat, who holds the Canada Excellence Research Chair in Oil Sands Molecular Engineering, says the spectroscopy looks at the physical nature of the molecule and "even if there are mixed molecules, we can detect specific molecules using this method."

Kim explains that conventional sensors based on coatings generally

cannot detect specific molecules in complex mixtures if the concentration of interfering molecules is five times greater than that of the target molecules. The detection sensitivity and selectivity are drastically increased using the high-power infrared laser because the photothermal signal comes from the absorption of infrared photons and non-radiative decay processes. With this method, a few trillionths of a gram of explosive molecules can now be detected in a complex mixture even if there is a higher concentration of other interfering molecules.

The research team's findings were published Jan. 23 in the journal *Scientific Reports*.

The research team's work is now focused on detecting biomolecules and hydrocarbons in the oil industry, and nerve gas simulants (DMMP), which can be found in such everyday items as household radiators, gasoline and fabric softeners. The team also hopes to develop a hand-held device for chemical detection that could be used in fields such as security, health care and environmental protection.

laurels

Thomas Thundat has been named a Distinguished Alumnus of the University at Albany, State University of New York, where he received his PhD in physics in 1987. Thundat is a professor in the Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering, and Canada Excellence Research Chair in Oil Sands Molecular Engineering at the U of A. He is the author of more than 285 publications in refereed journals, 48 book chapters and 30 patents. He has received a number of awards, most recently the Outstanding Achievement Award in the Sensor Division of the Electrochemical Society.

Robert Nichols, assistant professor in the Department of Political Science, was awarded a Faculty Fellowship from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. The award provides Nichols with two years of funded research tenable at two institutions—the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, where he will join the Department of Philosophy, and the University of Cambridge, where he will collaborate with scholars in the Department of Politics and International Studies.

Student physiotherapy clinic fills gaps in patient need

Bryan Alary

Call it a health centre, a research facility or both, but a student physical therapy clinic at the University of Alberta serves an important need for an underserved population of patients with few affordable options.

The Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine's student physical therapy clinic provides hands-on opportunities to treat athletes and serve the health-care needs of students and patients who otherwise can't get private care. Nearly a year since expanding to year-round operation, the not-for-profit clinic is proving a success for patients and students alike.

"Our students are so energetic and highly motivated to be successful, they do a really good job with our patients," says Geoff Bostick, an assistant professor in the Department of Physical Therapy and co-ordinator of the Corbett Hall Student Physical Therapy Clinic. "That combination of students' energy and desire to learn, and a good group of physical therapists with a capacity and willingness to teach, gives the patients a really positive experience."

The Department of Physical Therapy expanded the clinic last March to give students enhanced learning and research opportunities while serving an important role in the community.

In addition to serving students who can't afford private physiotherapy, and serving Golden Bears and Pandas athletes, the clinic also helps people with unique physical therapy needs,

such as recovering stroke patients. Bostick says such patients may have achieved their rehabilitation goals at the Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital, for instance, but cannot afford private services to advance their recovery.

Six months of treatment at the student clinic has helped Larry Villettard regain mobility in his arm two years after suffering a stroke that paralyzed the right side of his body.

"To an able-bodied person it might not sound like much, but it's a big deal to me," says Villettard, 63, a retired plumber and electrician who has spent his entire life working with his hands.

It's also the type of progress he wouldn't have achieved without the student clinic because he can't afford private therapy. He enjoys the treatment and his role in student learning.

"Working with these students, they're so enthusiastic it's really a treat," says Villettard. "And besides the physical therapy, it's good for the soul to have people who care about what they're doing. They're so thrilled they can bring about some change in your condition."

The clinic gives students an opportunity to work with patients to fulfil clinical placement requirements, and provides additional training opportunities as an elective. Students work with trained faculty, but can also mentor their peers, which is another important skill, Bostick says.

The model has not only attracted the interest of local physical therapy students, but also pharmacy and kinesiology students who benefit from clinical experience, Bostick



Yung Wong works with Larry Villettard, who is regaining mobility in his right arm after six months of treatment at the Corbett Hall Student Physical Therapy Clinic.

says. The clinic is also generating interest from physical therapy students across Canada and internationally.

Yung Wong, a second-year master's student in physical therapy, appreciates the extra learning time students have with patients, peers and clinical instructors. She's had a chance to learn from as many as five clinical instructors; in a private clinic there might be one or two, Wong says.

"The clinic provides a wide variety of learning and you are given a lot more time to learn, which absolutely helps me as a learner," she says. "It has been affirming that I've chosen the right place to go."

talks & events

Talks & Events listings do not accept submissions via fax, mail, email or phone. Please enter events you'd like to appear in folio and at www.news.ualberta.ca/events. A more comprehensive list of events is available online at www.events.ualberta.ca. Deadline: noon one week prior to publication. Entries will be edited for style and length.

UNTIL FEB. 10

Stitch by Stitch: The Art of Keiskamma Trust. Experience the exciting designs and fabric art products produced by the artists of Keiskamma Trust in the Eastern Cape of South Africa. Tapestries, embroidered bags, pillow covers, laptop covers, mohair and felt/silk scarves, handmade journals and many other artistic crafts will be on display, along with the stories and photos relating to their creation. Keiskamma Canada Foundation is a group of passionate Edmontonians who raise funds for and awareness about Keiskamma Trust in South Africa, an organization that builds hope in an area of despair. Rutherford Library South.

UNTIL FEB. 15

The Spacious Margin: Eighteenth-Century Printed Books and the Traces of Their Readers. Curated by Sylvia Brown and John Considine, this exhibition explores marginalia found in 18th-century books. Bruce Peel Special Collections Library.

Arctic Art Exhibition. This exhibit features stone sculptures, paintings, prints and women's sewing work of the peoples of the Canadian Arctic, showing the different landscapes and materials the Inuit and Dene peoples had to work with to survive. It honours the incredible ingenuity these peoples used to survive arctic environments. The artwork in this exhibit was bought and collected by Joanne McNeal as she lived and taught in Arctic colleges in the NWT and the Yukon, and at the Great Northern Arts Festival in Inuvik. Coutts Library.

UNTIL FEB. 16

Studio Theatre: The Missionary Position. After a devastating tsunami engulfs a small remote Central American country, a disparate group of young Canadian missionaries congregate to offer their help. Rescuing children they believe are orphans, the missionaries are incarcerated, forcing them to confront who they are and what they believe in. Greg MacArthur, U of A Lee Playwright in Residence, was commissioned to write The Missionary Position for the BFA acting class of 2013 to perform as part of the Studio Theatre Timms Centre for the Arts.

UNTIL MAR. 2

Immortal Beauty. A collaboration between the U of A Museums and the Prince Takamado Japan Centre in the Faculty of Arts, Immortal Beauty celebrates the work of master calligrapher Shikō Kataoka, in the context of calligraphy-inspired works from the U of A Art Collection. Admission by donation. Enterprise Square.

FEB. 11

Keynote by Guy Saint-Jacques, Canadian Ambassador to China. Ambassador Saint-Jacques will give an address entitled The New Chinese Leadership: Its Anticipated Effect on Dealing With China. Fluent in Mandarin, Saint-Jacques joined the Department of External Affairs in 1977. He most recently served as chief negotiator and ambassador for climate change for the Government of Canada. This is his fourth posting to the People's Republic of China. For more, go to china.ualberta.ca. Noon–1 p.m. Myer Horowitz Theatre.

FEB. 12, 13, 19, 20, 22

Moodle Training, TLS Concepts and Course Design. The Centre for Teaching and Learning is hosting this hands-on session to introduce basic Moodle features and course development to instructors. For more information, go to www.ctl.ualberta.ca. 1–4 p.m. 1-30 Cameron Library.

FEB. 12

Bridges' Global Citizens' Café Sessions. Do you want to become more knowledgeable about the world and widen your perspectives? Do you want to meet new people from a variety of backgrounds and cultures? Come for these biweekly sessions where you'll have the opportunity to listen to Bridges volunteers speak on issues they are passionate about. Noon–1 p.m. 172 HUB, International Centre.

O'Byrne Lectures – Medical Tourism: The Reality, the Challenges. Medical tourism is a growing international phenomenon. Patients are traveling throughout the world to access cutting-edge and often unproven therapies, including organ transplantation, weight-loss surgery and cosmetic procedures. This acclaimed panel will

examine the legal and ethical issues of travelling for treatment. Please RSVP to rhydelay@ualberta.ca. Noon–2 p.m. 231/237 Law Centre.

The Right Chemistry: Colours in Fashion 1704–1918. Wearing colour is part of the human experience. Learn about the role colour has played in fashion over the centuries. Anne Bissonnette, professor in the Department of Human Ecology, will give a lecture about colours as an integral part of the fibre of society and how their presence or absence served a social function. 7–8 p.m. 150 TELUS Centre.

Truly Madly Deeply. A two-part staged and costumed vocal theatre event featuring students from the studio of professor Kathleen Corcoran. The first half of the evening is a music drama based on a selection of English songs that tell the story of the pursuit, heartache and ultimate triumph of love in an age of Internet interconnecting. The second half presents exquisite arias from the operatic repertoire. Tickets available at the door: \$10 adults; \$7 students/seniors. 7–9 p.m. Augustana Chapel, Camrose.

FEB. 13

Old Questions, New Tools, Shifting Literacy Practices for Young Learners. Linda Laidlaw, professor in the Faculty of Education, will talk about young learners in a rapidly changing world that demands increasing abilities to utilize new technological tools and innovations, and increasing requirements to "be literate" in multiple contexts. This presentation examines shifts in literacy practice, using data from three contexts: preschoolers' home literacy practices, classroom experiences with multimodal texts, children's home literacy practices, and contextual literacy documents from Canada and Australia. Noon–1 p.m. 122 Education South.

Educated Luncheon – Fact or Fiction: Investing in Young Children Has Huge Payoffs. Susan Lynch, director of the U of A's Early Child Development Mapping Project, will be discussing how the project is working to identify how young children in our province are doing and how we can strengthen Alberta's ability to make positive early childhood

development a reality for every child in the province. \$10 (includes lunch). Noon–1 p.m. Enterprise Square.

FEB. 13 & 19

Academic Women's Association Future Directions Town Hall Meetings.

All members of the university community are invited to two town hall meetings to share thoughts and opinions to assist with planning the continued existence of an association dedicated to supporting women in the academy. Feb. 13, 5–6 p.m. 122 Education South and Feb. 19, noon–1 p.m. 105 Law Centre.

FEB. 13

Schubert's Winterreise – Russell Braun featuring Carolyn Maule. One of the most beautiful song cycles ever written for voice and piano, Schubert's Winterreise is a tragic love story based on the poetry of Wilhelm Muhler. 8–10 p.m. Convocation Hall.

FEB. 14

Arctic Glaciers Seminar. Martin Sharp, chair of the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, and Olivier Gagliardini, professor in the Laboratory of Glaciology and Environmental Geophysics, Grenoble, will address two questions: What's happening to

Canada's Arctic glaciers? What can we learn from modelling Greenland ice streams? 5–6:30 p.m. Aon Room, Alumni House.

Third Edition of Campus Saint-Jean's Book Fair. Come celebrate the launch of works by the professors of the campus. 5–7 p.m. Historical Room, Pavilion Lacerte, Campus Saint-Jean.

Marcel Boisvert Conference. Marcel Boisvert is an authority in palliative care. His conference will address, among other topics, the theme of euthanasia. 7–9 p.m. Historical Room, Pavilion Lacerte, Campus Saint-Jean.

FEB. 19–23

Reading Week.

FEB. 21

The Spark: Tunisia – Then and Now. This lecture will discuss the past, present and future of the Arab revolutions; Islamism and the transition to democracy; liberalism, populism and the left; gender equality; and minority rights. 5–7 p.m. 1-91 Tory Building.

FEB. 23

CIHR Café Scientifique: Searching for Cures? Medical Travel for Stem Cell Treatments. 4–6 p.m. Leva Cappuccino Bar.

classified ads

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HOW TO BE A HOCKEY FAN

More than 100 international students were introduced to the quintessential Canadian sport of hockey as the Golden Bears took on the University of Regina Cougars at Clare Drake Arena. The evening of rule explanations, revelry and a 6-0 home win was part of the U of A Alumni Association's celebration of 100 seasons of Golden Bears hockey and coincided with the end of International Week.



PHOTOS: JOHN ULAN & SELENA PHILLIPS-BOYLE